Lok Pal Bill

596. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce Lok Pal bill to bring transparency in Government functioning; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The matter regarding enactment of legislation relating to Lokpal is receiving attention of the Government.

Cut in the Public Holidays

597. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to slate:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Citizens Organization for public opinion requesting to cut in the public holidays; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The system of holidays has been reviewed over the years and there has been a marked reduction in the number or holidays from more than 25 holidays to the existing level of 17 holidays in a year (inclusive of 3 National holidays). It has also been decided not to declare any holiday on the death of any VIP except in the case of incumbent Prime Minister of India or President of India based on 5th Central Pay Commission's recommendations. For the convenience of the general public, it has also been decided in principle to reduce the

number of Bank holidays to a maximum of 15 in a year and the Department of Banking are working out the required modalities.

PSUs without Permanent Chiefs

598. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PSUs which do not have permanent chiefs (and top Directors) and how many of the current top board level appointments are on a temporary basis; and

(b) how many recommendations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) have been put on hold or not implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA. RAJE): (a) 24 posts of Chief Executives and 39 posts of full time Directors were vacant as on 30.06.2000. 16 Board level posts are held on temporary basis.

(b) 25 recommendations of PESB are pending implementation with various Ministries/Departments.

Increasing strength of. Pensioners

599, SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government pensioners have outnumbered the strength of the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred in regard thereto;

(c) whether Government have set up any pension funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the fund so raised is proposed to be utilised to lessen the burden of expenditure due to pension; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?